



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1906-12-15

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1906 Dec 15.

John Muir

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Martinez Dec. 15/06

Dear Mr Johnson:

Through all the last three trouble-filled years I have not written a single line for the press. Since our return from Arizona I have been repairing earthquake damage to the house. We are now quietly settled for the winter & I hope to try my pen once more.

As to G. W. James, he is an unscrupulous ex-minister who tries to get hold of anything in any way to make money. The letters he has got possession of are a lot written long ago to Mrs. Carr wife of Prof. Carr under whom I studied at the State University of Wisconsin. Some are about 40 yrs old, but most were written from Yosemite when I lived there

² Since Mrs Carr's death several years ago I have been sorry I did not get possession of them as I wanted them for my studies & first impressions etc, they were filled with.

About 3 yrs before Mrs C. died she lost her memory to so great extent the Court appointed a guardian to manage her property, & it must have been about this time that James got hold of them from her or her son or guardian probably saying he would return them. Have you seen those he published in the Craftsman for March, 1905? ^{his article in Impressions Quarterly, December, 1904} If not I'll send you a copy. He had the impudence to send me a lot. I wrote & told him he had no right to publish or keep those letters, & he answered never a word. One of them would make a good magazine article. I kept no

copy of them or notes & if I
can't get them away from
James I would rather let
him publish them not-
withstanding the fringe of
sentimental rubbish he
draws around them.

He is a cunning fellow, still
I may be able to find out
just how he managed to
get his hands on them.
Strange how smart & how
mean many ex ministers
are.

We must now take up
the Yosemite Park manage-
ment. Do you know any
good landscape gardeners
If only Olmstead were alive
I congratulate you on the
grand extinguishment of Hearst.
With kindest regards to you all
I am ever faithfully yours John Muir